

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 EB-08 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 OES-09 OMB-01
HA-05 STR-07 MCE-00 CEA-01 FRB-03 /135 W
-----119682 201644Z /41

P 201629Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4578
USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USINT HAVANA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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USEEC

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY

USDOC FOR BEWT
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEWT, ESTC, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS REPORTS U.S. EXPORT CONTROL
ACTIONS

SUMMARY: WHITE HOUSE DECISION TO DENY SPERRY-UNIVAC

COMPUTER SALE TO THE SOVIET UNION AND TO PLACE BROAD RANGE OF OIL DRILLING TECHNOLOGY UNDER UMBRELLA OF EXPORT CONTROL ACT HAS EVOKED SHARP RESPONSE IN SOVIET PRESS. AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA PIECES ASSAIL MOVE AS "ONE MORE MANIFESTATION OF A COURSE TOWARD THE DELIBERATE WORSENING OF RELATIONS WITH THE USSR." PRESIDENTIAL, CABINET, AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY STATEMENTS MARSHALLED IN ATTACK ON "DISCRIMINATORY RESTRICTIONS" ON TRADE. CURRENT MOVE ATTRIBUTED TO ADHERENTS OF A "HARD LINE" WHO HAVE FAILED TO LEARN LESSONS OF COLD WAR. END SUMMARY.

1. WHITE HOUSE DENIAL OF AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR SALE OF SPERRY-UNIVAC COMPUTER TO SOVIET UNION IS ATTACKED IN VISHNEVSKIY ARTICLE "AN ATTEMPT WITH UNSUITABLE MEANS" IN PRAVDA JULY 20. VISHNEVSKIY REPORTS THAT IN ADDITION TO COMPUTER DECISION THE PRESIDENT HAS IMPOSED A "LIMITATION" ON THE DELIVERY TO THE SOVIETS OF "DRILLING EQUIPMENT" AND CITING UPI REPORT, ASSERTS THAT ALL US TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT BOUND FOR THE USSR IS NOW PLACED IN THE EXPORT CONTROL LIST. "EVERY DEAL INVOLVING THE SALE OF SUCH EQUIPMENT HAS TO BE PERSONALLY APPROVED BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT."

2. VISHNEVSKIY FINDS WHITE HOUSE ACTION A "STRIKING" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY, IN CONTRAST TO "WIDESPREAD MOVEMENT" IN U.S. IN RECENT YEARS TOWARD "ALL KINDS OF DEVELOPMENT OF MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS BUSINESS TIES" WITH THE USSR. HE CITES PRESIDENT'S REMARKS "ONLY THREE WEEKS AGO" IN FAVOR OF CLOSER RELATIONS, AS WELL AS HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT CRITICAL OF JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT. CABINET MEMBERS ARE HELD TO HAVE SPOKEN OF THE DESIRABILITY OF ABOLISHING DISCRIMINATORY RESTRICTIONS, AND BUSINESS WEEK IS CITED TO EFFECT THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS WILL DAMAGE U.S. INTERESTS. VISHNEVSKIY WONDERS WHY ACTION TAKEN AT A TIME WHEN U.S. ECONOMY IS IN SUCH A MESS AND FURTHER "FRIGHTFUL" TRADE DEFICIT IS EXPECTED. CITING NEW YORK TIMES, HE ATTRIBUTES WHITE HOUSE ACTION TO BRZEZINSKI AND SCHLESINGER, WHO ARE LABELLED ADHERENTS OF "HARD LINE."

3. MATVEEV COMMENTARY "ACCORDING TO THE RECIPES OF THE COLD WAR" IN IZVESTIYA JULY 19 SHARPLY CRITICIZES AMERICAN POLITICIANS WHO HAVE FAILED TO LEARN THE LESSONS OF THE COLD WAR ON THE FUTILITY OF TRADE AND OTHER ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST THE USSR AND OTHER

SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE ECHOES THEMES THAT INFLUENTIAL U.S. BUSINESS LEADERS ARE CONCERNED BY TRADE RESTRICTIONS AND THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS CAN ONLY HARM THE INTERESTS OF UNITED STATES ITSELF.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT SHARPER THAN USUAL IN EXPLICIT NAMING OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, SOVIET COMMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH PAST TREATMENT OF U.S. TRADE RESTRICTIONS. USUAL EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO CITE INFLUENTIAL SEGMENTS OF U.S. PUBLIC OPINION -- ESPECIALLY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY -- AS MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF ABOLITION OF TRADE RESTRICTIONS, OPPOSED BY HANDFUL WHO WISH RETURN TO COLD WAR. ONE INTERESTING ASPECT OF SOVIET RESPONSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS FAILURE TO ALLUDE TO ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN

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HA-05 STR-07 MCE-00 CEA-01 FRB-03 /135 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4579
USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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MOST RECENT WHITE HOUSE ACTIONAND U.S. RESPONSE TO
SOVIET HANDLING OF DISIDENT TRIALS. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, EXPORT CONTROLS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TRIALS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS REPORTS U.S. EXPORT CONTROL ACTIONS SUMMARY: WHITE HOUSE DECISION TO DENY SPERRY-UNIV
TAGS: EEW, ESTC, PINT, SHUM, UR, US
To: STATE COM
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Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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